

VZCZCXYZ0003
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHC #9309 3130106
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 080056Z NOV 08
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
ALL NATO POST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 0000
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 119309

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [UNGA](#) [UNAMA](#) [KDEM](#) [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [SNAR](#) [PHUM](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: INSTRUCTIONS FOR UNGA AFGHANISTAN
RESOLUTION

11. The Department requests that USUN co-sponsor the resolution on the situation on Afghanistan (para 3), to be considered by the UN General Assembly on November 10, and that USUN draw on the following points for use during the discussion.

12. Begin points:

Mr. President:

The United States is pleased to co-sponsor this resolution reaffirming the solidarity of the international community with the government and the people of Afghanistan. In particular, we would like to thank the German delegation for their hard work in ensuring that this resolution received the broadest possible support.

This resolution underscores the leading role that UNAMA is playing as the central coordinator for all international assistance and for ensuring that such assistance is coordinated with military efforts. UNAMA is an essential partner of the Afghan government as it continues to develop its capacity to meet the needs of the Afghan people.

The United States commends the work of Special Representative Eide and the UNAMA staff. We call on member states to join us in supporting a surge in UNAMA's capabilities with the SRSG's plan to expand the reach of UNAMA throughout the provinces and to engage more intensively in coordinating international assistance in support of the Afghan National Development Strategy. We further call on member states to support the Special Representative's request for additional budgetary and personnel resources, which will soon be considered by the 5th Committee. We urge the Secretariat to do everything in its power to make sure that Mr. Eide is given the support and resources he needs to carry out his mission.

As winter approaches, we remain gravely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. The situation is worsening and many lives are in jeopardy -- both from possible food shortages and extreme cold weather. We urge member states to respond to Afghan government as well as UN appeals for all possible humanitarian, reconstruction, development, and financial assistance to Afghanistan. The United States will continue to do its part. We are the largest donor in food assistance to Afghanistan, both financially and in kind. We are prepared to do more.

The United States deeply regrets the accidental loss of civilian lives. We are doing everything in our power to ensure that ISAF and Operation Enduring Freedom, working in partnership with Afghan security forces, take every

precaution to prevent civilian casualties.

But let us be clear about the root cause of the violence in Afghanistan. The Afghan people face an increasingly vicious campaign of violence and intimidation carried out by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, and other extremists groups aimed at imposing an authoritarian government and systematically denying them their most fundamental human rights. These forces are systematically targeting civilians, aid-related targets, and NGOs in an effort to derail the establishment of democratic government and the creation of conditions that will lead to peace and stability. Thus, the Afghan people remain on the front lines in the world-wide battle against terrorism and the effort to ensure that enlightened and civilized governance prevails over barbarism.

Mr. President, last June the international community endorsed the Afghan National Development Strategy, and there was an unprecedented level of pledges. This is a clear sign of our determination to help Afghanistan succeed. There are other positive indicators as well. National institutions continue to grow. The National Solidarity Program is serving more than 20,000 villages. The Afghan National Army has nearly reached its initial target of 70,000 personnel, and a new target of 134,000 has been set. Cooperation between the Ministry of Public Health and the international community has enabled more than 80 percent of the Afghan population to gain access to primary medical care.

Though the challenges in Afghanistan remain enormous, we must continue to work together and renew our mutual commitment to help Afghanistan succeed.

End points.

3: Begin text:

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 62/6 of 13 December 2007 and all its previous relevant resolutions,
Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resolutions 1659 (2006) of 15 February 2006, 1806 (2008) of 20 March 2008, 1817 (2008) of 11 June 2008 and 1833 (2008) of 22 September 2008, as well as the statement by the President of the Council on 11 July 2008, S/PRST/2008/26; see Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1 August 2007–31 July 2008,
Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,
Reaffirming its continued support for the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact of 31 January 2006, S/2006/90, annex providing the framework for the partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community and recalling in this regard the spirit and the provisions of the Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001, the Berlin Declaration, including the annexes thereto, of 1 April 2004,
Recognizing once again the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, reaffirming that sustainable progress on security, governance and development, as well as the cross-cutting theme of counter-narcotics, is mutually reinforcing, and welcoming the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to address these challenges in a coherent manner,
Reiterating the urgent need to tackle the challenges in Afghanistan, in particular the increased violent criminal and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, illegal armed groups and those involved in the narcotics trade, in particular in the south and east, and the development of Afghan Government institutions, including at the sub-national level, the strengthening of the rule of law, the acceleration of justice sector reform, the promotion

of national reconciliation, without prejudice to the fulfillment of the measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 and other relevant resolutions, and an Afghan-led transitional justice process, the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons in an orderly and dignified manner, the promotion and protection of human rights and the advancement of economic and social development,

Condemning in the strongest terms all attacks, including Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks, suicide attacks and abductions, targeting civilians and Afghan and international forces and their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan, and condemning further the use by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups of civilians as human shields,

Deeply concerned about the recent increase in violence in Afghanistan, in particular in the south and east, recognizing the increased threats posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats, expressing its serious concern with the high number of civilian casualties, noting relevant statements of Afghan authorities and high-ranking UN officials, as well as Press statements of the President of the Security Council in this regard, and calling for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law and for all appropriate measures to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians,

Recognizing the efforts taken by ISAF and other international forces to minimize the risk of civilian casualties, and calling on them to take additional robust efforts in this regard, notably by the continuous review of tactics and procedures and the conduct of after-action reviews and investigations in cooperation with the Afghan Government in cases where civilian casualties have occurred and when the Afghan Government finds these joint investigations appropriate,

Noting the importance of the national Government being representative of the ethnic diversity of the country and ensuring also the full and equal participation of women,

¶1. Stresses the central and impartial role of the United Nations in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan and expresses its appreciation and strong support for all efforts of the Secretary General and his Special Representative in this regard and welcomes the leading role of UNAMA in the coordination of the international civilian effort, guided by the principle of reinforcing Afghan ownership and leadership;

¶2. Welcomes the Declaration of the Paris Conference of 12 June, 2008 and the additional international support as pledged, reaffirms that the Afghanistan Compact, including the annexes thereto, remain the agreed basis for the work of both Afghanistan and the international community, welcomes the launching of the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS), that reflects, inter alia, increased Afghan ownership and responsibility; welcomes the Afghan commitment to pursue political and economic reform;

¶3. Welcomes the reports of the Secretary General A/63/372 of 23 September 2008, S/2008/434 of 3 July 2008 and A/62/722 of 6 March 2008. and the recommendations contained therein;

¶4. Expresses its strong concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, stresses the need to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan caused by increased violent and terrorist activity by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups including those involved in the narcotics trade, and strongly condemns all acts of violence and intimidation taking place in Afghanistan, in particular in the southern and eastern parts, including suicide attacks;

¶5. Expresses in this regard deep regret at the resulting loss of life and physical harm inflicted upon Afghan civilians and civilians of other nationalities including the personnel of Afghan and international agencies and all other humanitarian workers and the diplomatic corps, as well as upon the personnel of the Afghan National Security

Forces, the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition;

¶16. Stresses the need for the Afghan government and the international community to continue to work closely together in countering these challenges of terrorist attacks by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist and criminal groups which are threatening the democratic process as well as the reconstruction and economic development of Afghanistan, and reiterates in this regard its call for full implementation of measures introduced in relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 1267 (1999);

¶17. Notes with concern that the security situation is causing some organizations to cease or curtail their humanitarian and development work in some parts of Afghanistan;

¶18. Stresses the importance of the provision of sufficient security, welcomes the presence of ISAF throughout Afghanistan, and calls upon Member States to continue contributing personnel, equipment and other resources to ISAF and to further develop the provincial reconstruction teams in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and UNAMA;

¶19. Notes, in the context of the comprehensive approach, the synergies in the objectives of UNAMA and of ISAF;

¶10. Notes that the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout the country resides with the Government of Afghanistan supported by ISAF and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, recognizes the institutional progress achieved in this respect and the continued coordination between ISAF and the coalition;

¶11. Stresses the importance of further extending central government authority, including the presence of Afghan security forces, to all provinces of Afghanistan;

¶12. Calls upon the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, including through the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition and ISAF, in accordance with their respective designated responsibilities, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan;

¶13. Commends the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, ISAF and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition for their efforts to improve security conditions in Afghanistan;

¶14. Welcomes the continued development of the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, recognizes the international support provided, calls for intensified Afghan and international efforts to modernize and strengthen both institutions and related Government departments with particular attention to the Afghan National Police which continues to face challenges in its development, and welcomes in this regard the continued deployment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan and the Focused District Development in In-District Reform programs;

¶15. Acknowledges in this context, that the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police require additional support to enhance their capability and professionalism, including through the provision of increased training and mentoring, more modern equipment and infrastructure, and continued salary support;

¶16. Urges the Afghan authorities to take all possible steps to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations, development and humanitarian personnel, their safe and unhindered access to all affected populations and to protect the property of the United Nations and of development or humanitarian organizations;

¶17. Urges the Afghan authorities to make every effort, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/123 of 15 December 2005, to bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks;

¶18. Stresses the importance of advancing the full implementation of the program of disbandment of illegal armed groups throughout the country under Afghan ownership, while ensuring coordination and coherence with other relevant efforts, including security sector reform, community development, counter-narcotics, district-level

development and Afghan-led initiatives to ensure that entities and individuals do not illegally participate in the political process such as elections in 2009 and 2010, in accordance with adopted laws and regulations in Afghanistan, and calls for adequate support in order for the Ministry of Interior to increasingly assume its leading role in implementing the program of disbandment of illegal armed groups;

¶19. Welcomes the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to stand firm on the disbandment of illegal armed groups and to work actively at national, provincial and local levels to advance this commitment and stresses, in this regard, all efforts to create sufficient legal income-earning opportunities and calls for continued international support for these efforts;

¶20. Remains deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, which constitute a great danger for the population and major obstacle for the resumption of economic activities and for recovery and reconstruction efforts;

¶21. Welcomes the progress achieved through the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, and supports the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to meet its responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, Ibid., vol. 2056, No.

¶35597. and to cooperate fully with the Mine Action Programme coordinated by the United Nations and to eliminate all known or new stocks of anti-personnel landmines and acknowledges the need for more assistance from the international community in this regard;

¶22. Stresses that regional cooperation constitutes an effective means to promote security and development in Afghanistan;

¶23. Pledges its continued support, after the successful completion of the political transition, to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild their country, strengthen the foundations of a constitutional democracy and resume their rightful place in the community of nations;

¶24. Recalls the constitutional guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans as a significant political achievement, stresses the need to fully implement the human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution, including those regarding the full enjoyment by women and children of their human rights;

¶25. Calls for the full respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with obligations under the Afghan Constitution and international law;

¶26. Commends the achievements and the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan in this respect and expresses its concern over the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, extremist and other criminal groups on the enjoyment of human rights and on the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to ensure human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans;

¶27. Recalls Security Council resolutions 1674 (2006) of 28 April 2006 and 1738 (2006) of 23 December 2006 on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and expresses its concern at the high number of civilian casualties as stated in the recent report by the Secretary General on the situation in Afghanistan, A/63/372 of 23 September 2008 including women and children, reiterates its call for all feasible steps to be taken to ensure the protection of civilians and calls for full compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law;

¶28. Recognizes the importance of holding free, fair and secure elections in 2009 and 2010 as a crucial step to consolidate democracy for all Afghans as identified in the Afghanistan Compact,² stresses the responsibility of the Afghan authorities in this regard and calls upon the international community to continue to provide sustained support, including financial assistance and support to the Afghan government on ensuring the security of the elections;

¶29. Welcomes the steps taken by the Government of Afghanistan on justice sector reform, stresses the need for further accelerated progress towards the establishment of a fair and effective justice system as an important step towards the goal of strengthening the Government, providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country, and urges the international community to continue to support the efforts of the Government in these areas in a coordinated manner;

¶30. Welcomes in this regard the adoption by the Afghan authorities of the National Justice Programme, and stresses the importance of its full and timely implementation by all the relevant actors;

¶31. Urges the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to devote adequate resources to the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in order to improve respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, while reducing physical and mental health risks to inmates;

¶32. Emphasizes the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations to all prisons in Afghanistan and calls for full respect for relevant international law, including humanitarian law, and human rights law, where applicable, including with regard to minors, if detained;

¶33. Notes with concern reports of continued violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law including violent or discriminatory practices, violations committed against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, as well as against women and girls, stresses the need to promote tolerance and religious freedom as guaranteed by the Afghan constitution, emphasizes the necessity of investigating allegations of current and past violations, stresses the importance of facilitating the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims and of bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with national and international law;

¶34. Stresses the need to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of thought, conscience or belief, while noting with concern recent attempts to limit freedom of expression and to intimidate journalists and condemns cases of the abduction and even killing of journalists by terrorist as well as extremist and criminal groups;

¶35. Reiterates the important role of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, stresses the need to expand its range of operation in all parts of Afghanistan in accordance with the Afghan Constitution, encourages the Government of Afghanistan to take increasing responsibility for the core funding of the Commission and calls on the international community for continued support in this regard;

¶36. Calls for the full implementation by the Government of Afghanistan of the Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation, in the framework of the Afghan constitution without prejudice to the implementation of measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999) and recalls other relevant resolutions in this regard, including Security Council resolution 1806 (2008);

¶37. Recalls Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008 on women and peace and security, commends the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to mainstream gender issues and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men as guaranteed, inter alia, by virtue of its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378. and by the Afghan Constitution, and reiterates the continued importance of the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of Afghan life, of equality before the law and equal access to legal counsel without discrimination of any kind;

¶38. Welcomes the creation of a special fund for the protection of women at risk set up by UNIFEM with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

¶39. Welcomes the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan and the significant efforts by the Government of Afghanistan to counter discrimination, urges the Government to actively involve all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction programs, and encourages the collection and use of statistical data on a sex-disaggregated basis to provide information on gender-based violence and accurately track the progress of the full integration of women into the political, economic and social life of Afghanistan;

¶40. Applauds the progress achieved on gender equality and in the empowerment of women in Afghan politics as historic milestones in the political process which will help to consolidate durable peace and national stability in Afghanistan, while noting the need to promote the empowerment of women also at the provincial level;

¶41. Strongly condemns incidents of discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular if directed against women activists and women prominent in public life, wherever they occur in Afghanistan, including killings, maimings, and "honor killings" in certain parts of the country;

¶42. Stresses the need to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of children in Afghanistan, recalls the need to fully implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the two Optional Protocols thereto by all States parties, as well as Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 on children and armed conflict;

¶43. Expresses in this regard its concern about the ongoing recruitment and use of children by illegal armed and terrorist groups in Afghanistan as expressed in the report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict of 21 December 2007, A/62/609 - S/2007/757. and stresses the importance of ending the use of children contrary to international law, welcomes the progress achieved by and firm commitment of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard including the strong condemnation of any exploitation of children SG Report on the situation in Afghanistan and its implication for the security situation of 24 September 2008;

¶44. Welcomes the adoption by the Government of Afghanistan of the National Plan of Action on Combating Child Trafficking, also welcomes initiatives to pass legislation on human trafficking, guided by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transitional Organized Crime, Resolution 55/25, annex II. and stresses the importance of considering becoming a party to the Protocol;

¶45. Urges the Government of Afghanistan to continue to effectively reform the public administration sector in order to implement the rule of law and to ensure good governance and accountability at both national and local levels, and stresses the importance of meeting the respective benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact, with the support of the international community;

¶46. Welcomes the appointment of officials, as required by the Afghanistan Compact, to the Senior Appointments Panel and encourages the Government of Afghanistan to make active use of this panel, thus enhancing efficiency and transparency in the appointment of senior officials;

¶47. Encourages the international community, including all donor nations, to assist the Government of Afghanistan in making capacity-building and human resources development a cross-cutting priority;

¶48. Welcomes Afghanistan's ratification of the United Nations Convention against corruption, encourages the Government of Afghanistan to vigorously pursue its efforts to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at national, provincial and local levels of Government leading the fight against corruption in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact, and notes with concern the effects of corruption with regard to security, good governance, combating the narcotics industry and economic development;

¶49. Applauds the establishment of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance by the Government of Afghanistan, calls on Afghan authorities and the international community to actively support the work of the IDLG to establish and strengthen governance institutions at sub-national levels, and ensure that these institutions play a strong role in facilitating the delivery of national activities and programs to improve the well-being of the Afghan people, and welcomes in this regard international support provided including the agreements the IDLG signed with India and the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand public service training;

¶50. Urges the Government of Afghanistan to address, with the assistance of the international community, the question of claims for land property through a comprehensive land titling program, including formal registration of all property and improved security of property rights, and welcomes the steps already taken by the Government in this regard;

¶51. Welcomes the launch of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy, as well as further efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

¶52. Welcomes the continuing and growing ownership of the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, and emphasizes the crucial need to achieve ownership in all fields of governance and to improve institutional capabilities, including at the provincial level, in order to use aid more effectively;

¶53. Stresses the need for a continued strong international commitment to humanitarian assistance and for programs, under the ownership of the Government of Afghanistan, of recovery, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and expressing, at the same time, its appreciation to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations whose international and local staff continue to respond positively to the humanitarian, transition and development needs of Afghanistan despite increasing security concerns and difficulties of access in certain areas;

¶54. Expresses its appreciation for the humanitarian and development assistance work of the international community in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, recognizing the necessity for further improvement in the living conditions of the Afghan people and emphasizing the need to strengthen and support the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver basic social services, in particular education and public health services, and to promote development;

¶55. Expresses its appreciation for the work of the provincial reconstruction teams;

¶56. Urgently appeals to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with its national development strategy, all possible and necessary humanitarian, recovery, reconstruction, development, financial, technical and material assistance for Afghanistan, and recalls in this regard the leading role of UNAMA in coordinating international efforts;

¶57. Urges the international community, in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact, to increase the proportion of donor assistance channeled directly to the core budget, as agreed bilaterally between the Government of Afghanistan and each donor, as well as through other more predictable core budget funding modalities in which the Government participates, such as the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, the Law and Order Trust Fund and the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund;

¶58. Invites all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations providing assistance to Afghanistan to focus on institution-building in a coordinated manner and to ensure that such work complements and contributes to the development of an economy characterized by sound macroeconomic policies, the development of a financial sector that provides services, inter alia, to microenterprises, small and medium-sized

enterprises and households, transparent business regulations and accountability;

¶59. Encourages the international community to support the local economy as a measure for long-term stability and countering narcotics and, in this respect, to explore possibilities for enhancing local procurement;

¶60. Welcomes all efforts to increase regional economic integration.

RICE